

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that John A. Radermacher, DOB: 3/5/81, formerly of the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation in Sawyer County, Wisconsin, and Nicolas Acosta, DOB: 5/20/79, formerly of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty late on December 2, 2005, to charges that they conspired with other members of the Latin King Nation to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine on and around the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation.

The guilty pleas were accepted by Chief United States District Judge Barbara B. Crabb and the Acosta sentencing was scheduled for February 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m.; the Radermacher sentencing was scheduled for February 28, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. Acosta faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison; Radermacher faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The proof at the guilty hearing established that Radermacher was a member of the Latin King gang at LCO beginning in approximately 1998. He became the Enforcer and a leader in selling cocaine and crack cocaine for the Latin Kings. Radermacher and his wife, Candace, who was previously sentenced to 30 years in prison, also operated a crack house on the Reservation where they paid two boys under the age of 18 to sell

crack to customers. The proof at the plea hearing established that Acosta assisted his brother, Gregorio Acosta, Jr., also a member of the Latin King Nation, in selling crack cocaine at LCO in 2000 and 2001. Acosta, Jr. pleaded guilty on November 28 and will be sentenced on February 14, 2006, at 1:20 p.m.

Thirty-five defendants have already been sentenced in this long-term investigation being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department. In addition to Radermacher and Nicolas Acosta, Gregorio Acosta, Jr. , Robert G. Smith, and Donald Fairbanks have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. The jury trial of the four remaining defendants is scheduled to begin in federal court today.

The prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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